

INSIDE TODAY

U.S. NEWS

GOP TURNCOAT



Sen. Scott Brown, R-Mass., is followed by reporters as he leaves the Senate floor on Capitol Hill in Washington, Thursday, Feb. 4, 2010, after being sworn-in by Vice President Joe Biden.

Read more on Page A4

SPORTS NEWS

LANE CHANGE



Overwhelming favorite Sven Kramer of the Netherlands reacts after he was disqualified during the men's 10,000 meter speed skating race at the Richmond Olympic Oval at the Vancouver 2010 Olympics in Vancouver, British Columbia, Tuesday, Feb. 23, 2010.

Read more on Page A12

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Cheney tests showed evidence of mild heart attack

BEN FELLER

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Former Vice President Dick Cheney is recovering from a “mild heart attack,” his latest bout in a long battle against heart disease.

Cheney was feeling fine on Tuesday and probably will be sent home from a Washington hospital within a day or two, aides aid. He experienced chest pain on Monday, and lab results revealed evidence of the heart attack, spokesman Peter Long said.

“The whole family has been working with heart disease for decades, and they are vigilant and attuned to treatment,” said political consultant Mary Matalin, a friend and former counselor to Cheney.

Continued on Next Page



Former Vice President Dick Cheney waves as he walks onstage before addressing the Conservative Political Action Conference (CPAC), in Washington, Thursday, Feb. 18, 2010.

Associated Press

APNewsBreak: Iran nuclear offer falls short

GEORGE JAHN

Associated Press Writer

VIENNA (AP) — Iran has formally set out its terms for giving up most of its cache of enriched uranium in a confidential document — and the conditions fall short of what has been demanded by the United States and other world powers.

Washington dismissed the document — seen by The Associated Press on Tuesday — as a “red herring” and warned it would consult with its allies

on new penalties on Iran to punish it for its nuclear defiance.

Continued on Page 6

Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, speaks with media during his press conference at the presidency in Tehran, Iran, Tuesday, Feb. 16, 2010. President Ahmadinejad said Iran is installing more efficient centrifuges machines in its uranium enrichment facilities. Iran has over 8,000 centrifuges in its uranium enrichment facilities in central Iranian town of Natanz, although not all are working.

Associated Press



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Former Vice President Dick Cheney addresses the Conservative Political Action Conference (CPAC), in Washington, Thursday, Feb. 18, 2010.

Associated Press

HEAT ATTACK

Continued from Front Page

She added that Cheney, now 69, “knows how to live with this disease” and is fortunate to have great doctors. The news came just more than a week after Cheney and Vice President Joe Biden essentially dueled each across different Sunday television talk shows, bickering over national security, credit for success in Iraq and Iran’s nuclear program. Even more recently, Cheney made a surprise appearance

at the Conservative Political Action Conference, delighting the partisan crowd with statements like, “I think Barack Obama is a one-term president.”

Biden called Cheney on Tuesday to wish him well, as did Cheney’s old boss, former President George W. Bush.

The heart attack is Cheney’s fifth since age 37. A heart attack occurs when blood flow to the heart muscle is blocked.

After being admitted to George Washington University Hospital, Cheney underwent a stress test and a heart catheterization, according to a statement from his office. The statement did not say whether an angioplasty — a procedure to clear a blockage — was performed.

It is possible to have blockages in blood vessels too small to warrant that procedure.

Regardless, while a mild heart attack does not by definition do much damage to the heart muscle, cumulative ones add up.

“We know he’s got bad heart function to start. Any degree of loss of heart tissue is going to impair his heart function more,” said interventional cardiologist Dr. William O’Neill, executive dean for clinical affairs at the University of Miami School of Medicine.

Matalin said Cheney was feeling fine. She said the former vice president watched the Olympics on Monday night, had lunch with his family on Tuesday, has kept up good humor and deeply enjoyed writing his book.

While Bush kept his promise and got off the national political stage, Cheney has remained ever prominent as a voice of opposition to the Obama

administration. Under Bush, he was regarded as the most powerful vice president in history. Cheney’s public career spanned decades, including service as a lawmaker, a defense secretary and a White House chief of staff.

Cheney had bypass surgery in 1988, as well as two later angioplasties to clear narrowed coronary arteries, and bypasses tend to last about a decade before the rerouted blood vessels start to clog.

In 2001, he had a special pacemaker implanted in his chest. In addition, doctors in 2008 restored a normal rhythm to his heart with an electric shock. It was the second time in less than a year that Cheney had experienced and been treated for an atrial fibrillation, an abnormal rhythm involving the upper chambers of the heart.

Cheney has sparred with the Obama administration over plans to close the U.S. detention facility for terror suspects at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, and hold the trials of several detainees in civilian courts rather than military tribunals. Yet when Biden and Cheney spoke for roughly five minutes on Tuesday, it was all friendly and personal, Biden’s office said. □



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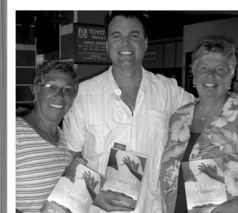
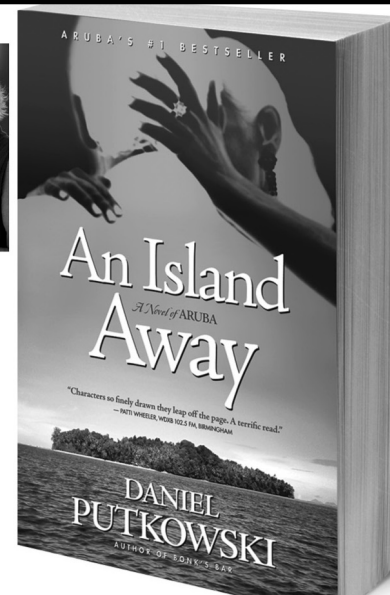
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States eye ban on public release of 911 calls

By DESIREE HUNTER

Associated Press Writer

MONTGOMERY, Ala. — Linda Casey dialed 911 and screamed, "Oh, God!" over and over again into the phone after finding her daughter beaten to death in the driveway of their North Carolina home. Later that day, she heard the 911 recording on the local news and vomited.

"This was not only the most painful thing I have ever been through, it should have been the most private," she said in an e-mail. Because of situations like Casey's, lawmakers in Alabama, Ohio and Wisconsin are deciding whether to bar the public release of 911 calls.

Missouri, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island and Wyoming already keep such recordings private. But generally, most states consider emergency calls public records available on request, with exceptions sometimes made for privacy reasons or to protect a police investigation.

"Nationally there is a growing concern about the release of audiotapes that don't involve newsworthy people or events — just things that people like to hear because of their sensational nature," said Sonny Brasfield, executive director of the Association of County Commissions of Alabama, which drafted legislation in the state to bar the release of 911 recordings. "There is a concern nationally that these kinds of things are having a chilling effect on people's willingness to call 911."

Open-government advocates disagree and say that prohibiting the release of

the recordings takes away a valuable tool that has exposed botched calls.

For example, a Detroit dispatcher in 2006 scolded a 5-year-old boy for "playing on the phone" while his mother lay unconscious. When police arrived, the boy's mother was dead. In a 2008 call in Memphis, Tenn., a 911 operator asked, "What's your emergency?" then fell asleep. "It's crucial that we're able to hear how our public safety calls are being handled," said David Cuillier, chairman of the Society of Professional Journalists' Freedom of Information Committee.

The public release of audio has also led to accolades for dispatchers who have helped save lives, and helped vindicate operators accused of mishandling a call.

In states where 911 calls are made available to the public, news organizations generally make their own case-by-case decisions on whether to air a recording, taking into consideration issues of taste, sensitivity and news value.

"We strongly believe that 911 recordings should be public record because they can reflect on the performance of public agencies," said Thomas Kent, standards editor of The Associated Press. "It certainly can be hard to listen to 911 recordings, and we use them very sparingly on the air and online. Our decision to use such recordings depends primarily on their relevance to important news, not the atmospheric." Cuillier, a professor at Arizona State University's School of Journalism, said the answer is



In this Feb. 17, 2010 photo, Sonny Brasfield, executive director of the Association of County Commissions of Alabama, is pictured in his office in Montgomery, Ala. Brasfield said the group drafted 911 privacy legislation after people began complaining to officials at the state's 88 emergency call centers.

Associated Press

better self-regulation by the media. "I see this all around the country. There'll be a media outlet that maybe goes a little too far — pushes the boundaries on something — and people do not like that," he said. "And then you'll have demands that it be taken down, you'll have a backlash, you'll have legislation that makes it all secret." WSPA, the Spartanburg, S.C., TV station that aired Casey's 911 call in 2008, apologized a day later and removed the recording from its Web site.

"That 911 call was me realizing my daughter was dead," Casey said. "I did not care to share that with the world and that private moment of grief should never have been used to sell papers, or up ratings."

Brasfield cited one Gary Allen, editor of particularly upsetting an online magazine for example from Alabama dispatchers, said new involving a call made by technology makes it a boy whose grandmother easier than ever to splice was being mauled by a dog. and copy 911 calls. □

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Republican branded turncoat for jobs bill vote



Sen. Scott Brown, R-Mass., talks to reporters after he voted for cloture on the Jobs Bill on Capitol Hill in Washington, Monday, Feb. 22, 2010. A bipartisan jobs bill cleared a GOP filibuster with critical momentum provided by the Senate's newest Republican.

Associated Press

By **GLEN JOHNSON**
AP Political Writer

BOSTON — A month after being crowned the darling of national conservatives, Republican Sen. Scott Brown of Massachusetts is being branded “Benedict Brown” for siding with Democrats in favor of a jobs bill endorsed by the Obama administration. Like the four other GOP

senators who joined him, the man who won the late Democrat Edward Kennedy’s seat says it’s about jobs, not party politics. And that may be good politics, too.

The four other GOP senators who broke ranks — Olympia Snowe and Susan Collins of Maine, George Voinovich of Ohio and Christopher “Kit” Bond of Missouri — also

were criticized on Tuesday. But Brown was the big target on conservative Web sites, talk shows and even the Facebook page his campaign has promoted as an example of his new-media savvy.

“We campaigned for you. We donated to your campaign. And you turned on us like every other RINO,” said one writer, using the initials for “Republican-In-Name-Only.” The conservative-tilting Drudge Report colored a photo of Brown on its home page in scarlet.

The new senator responded by calling into a Boston radio station.

“I’ve taken three votes,” Brown said with exasperation. “And to say I’ve sold out any particular party or interest group, I think, is certainly unfair.”

The senator said that by the time he seeks re-election in two years, he will have taken thousands of votes.

“So, I think it’s a little premature to say that,” he said.

Senate Republican leader Mitch McConnell of Kentucky wasn’t particularly perturbed

about Brown’s vote, saying his election last month has “made a huge, positive difference for us and for the whole legislative agenda.”

“We don’t expect our members to be in lockstep on every single issue,” McConnell added.

Political observers said each of the five Republican senators had solid reasons locally for voting as they did, to cut off a potential Republican filibuster on the bill.

The measure featured four provisions that enjoyed sweeping bipartisan support, including a measure exempting businesses hiring the unemployed from Social Security payroll taxes through December, and giving them a \$1,000 credit if new workers stay on the job a full year. It would also renew highway programs through December and deposit \$20 billion in the highway trust fund.

It faces a final Senate vote Wednesday.

Snowe and Collins hail from economically ailing Maine, and they can’t stray too far from the Democrats who populate much of New

England. And Voinovich and Bond also are from states hard hit by the recession.

The latter two also have the ultimate protection from retribution: They’re not seeking re-election this fall.

“When you have decided to retire and you are a free agent, you can pretty much do what you want,” said Peverill Squire, a political scientist at the University of Missouri-Columbia. And Squire doubted that Bond, retiring after 24 years in the Senate, would have paid much of a political price even if the famous appropriator were seeking re-election.

“He’s had no shyness in trying to send money,” he said.

While conservative columnist Michelle Malkin used her blog to accuse Voinovich of being a traitor, even suggesting he got some unspecified goody for his vote in favor of the “porkulus” bill, Ohio’s governor defended him.

Gov. Ted Strickland, a Democrat, praised the senator for “standing with the people of Ohio over the majority of his party.”

For Voinovich, a Republican from a Democratic stronghold, the party defection was nothing new. The two-time Ohio governor and former Cleveland mayor has sprinkled his political career with independent votes that can agitate the GOP. Former President George W. Bush famously visited Ohio in 2003 in an attempt to secure Voinovich’s support for a tax cut package.

Voinovich still voted no. Snowe and Collins, meanwhile, “survive in New England by a unique set of rules,” said Dante Scala, political science professor at the University of New Hampshire.

He said: “The way they survive with voters in their homes states is by making it clear that, first and foremost, they’re the servants of their constituencies, not the party label. So, they’ll make a point of defying their party and going their own way.”

Brown got little such leeway, despite campaigning as an “independent Republican” and publicly eschewing national supporters. □

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Pa. abortion doctor's license suspended after raid

By JOANN LOVIGLIO
Associated Press Writer

PHILADELPHIA — Federal agents raided a clinic where abortions are performed and found “deplorable and unsanitary” conditions, including blood on the floor and parts of aborted fetuses in jars, according to the state agency that shut it down and suspended the license of the doctor in charge.

In the order suspending Dr. Kermit Gosnell's license, the Pennsylvania Department of State's Board of Medicine said investigators found numerous health and safety risks at Gosnell's abortion and pain-management clinic, including a preoperative and recovery area that consisted of several recliners grouped together. The Women's Medical Society clinic is open during the day, but Gosnell does not arrive until somewhere between 6 p.m. and 9 p.m. and is the only person with a medical license working there, according to the order.

A clinic employee told investigators that Gosnell directed her in his absence to conduct gynecological examinations and administer painkillers to patients, the document states.

The temporary suspension of Gosnell's license follows at least two raids by agents from the Drug Enforcement Administration and the FBI. At the time of one raid — at 9 p.m. on Feb. 18 — investigators found the clinic full of patients.

On Nov. 20, the document states, a patient died after being given two separate doses of painkillers plus anesthesia before an abortion.

Gosnell's number is unlisted and calls to the clinic rang unanswered. It's not known if he has an attorney. His practice is located near the University of Pennsylvania campus in a large corner building, where a note in the window said that all patient appointments were canceled.

No criminal charges have been filed. Officials from the Philadelphia district attorney's office, DEA and FBI declined to comment, citing the ongoing probe and a sealed search warrant.

Kenneth E. Brody, attorney for the Pennsylvania Department of Health, confirmed that the department was assisting in the investigation but declined to discuss details.

Separate from the criminal probe, an investigation by state regulators will determine whether there is enough evidence for a formal hearing before the state Board of Medicine, said Department of State spokesman Charles



The Women's Medical Society in Philadelphia, is shown Tuesday, Feb. 23, 2010. State authorities have suspended a West Philadelphia doctor's medical license, citing “deplorable and unsanitary” conditions at his clinic.

Associated Press

Young.

“The petition alleges in this case that there is a threat to public safety,” Young said, “but he is presumed innocent until proven otherwise.”

According to Department of State records, Gosnell, 69, received his medical license in

1967. He also was authorized to practice medicine in New York in 1970.

In 1996, he was fined \$1,000 by the Pennsylvania Board of Medicine for employing an uncertified physician's assistant. No other disciplinary actions were found. □

2 teens injured in Colorado middle school shooting

By SAMANTHA ABERNETHY
Associated Press Writer

LITTLETON, Colo. — A teacher tackled a man armed with a high-powered rifle just after two teenage students were shot Tuesday at a suburban Denver middle school that's just miles from Columbine High School, the site of one of the nation's deadliest school shootings, authorities said.

One male and one female were shot at about 3:30 p.m. outside Deer Creek Middle School in Littleton, Jefferson County Sheriff's office spokeswoman Jacki Kelley said. Both students were taken to a nearby hospital and were expected to survive. Student Steven Seagraves said he was about 10 feet away when an adult approached students and asked them: “Do you guys go to this school?”

When the students said they did, he shot them, Seagraves said. Bus driver Steve Potter said he was about to pull away from the school with a full bus when he heard a loud bang that sounded like an M-80 firecracker. Students screamed when they spotted the man with a rifle, Potter told KMGH-TV.

“He looked like he was just kind of looking around for someone to shoot,” he said.

Seventh-grade math teacher David Benke, a former college basketball player, tackled the suspect. Potter said he and another bus driver jumped on the gunman and helped hold him until police arrived.

“He's the real hero,” Potter said of Benke. “All the credit goes to him.”

The suspect's name hasn't been released, but authorities say he's 32. □

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NUCLEAR OFFER Continued from Front Page

Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, wears eye protection goggles as he visits an exhibition of Iran's laser science, in Tehran, Iran, Sunday, Feb. 7, 2010. Ahmadinejad ordered his country's atomic agency on Sunday to begin the production of higher enriched uranium, a move that's likely to deepen international skepticism about the country's real intentions on the crucial issue of enriched uranium.

Associated Press

The document says Tehran is ready to hand over the bulk of its stockpile, as called for under a deal brokered by the International Atomic Energy Agency and endorsed by the five permanent U.N. Security Council members and Germany.

But Iran adds that it must simultaneously receive fuel rods for its research reactor in return, and that such an exchange must take place on Iranian territory.

The Iranian offer was sure to be rejected by the six powers, which have waited for nearly six months for such an official answer.

The United States and others fear Iran's nuclear program is geared toward making nuclear weapons, while Tehran claims it is simply to provide more power for its growing population. The United Nations has slapped sanctions on Iran for its defiance on nuclear issues.

Ali Asghar Soltanieh, the chief Iranian delegate to the IAEA, told the AP the document — his letter to International Atomic Energy Agency chief Yukiya Amano — was "formally reflecting" his country's position, which has been expressed to the IAEA and to the media in various forms.

The U.S. and its allies have previously said there can be no significant deviation from the original deal, which would commit Iran to shipping out its nuclear material first and then waiting up to a year for it to be turned into fuel for its reactor, which makes medical isotopes.

U.S. State Department spokesman P.J. Crowley told reporters in Washington that Iran's counterproposal was unacceptable.

"It doesn't say anything new," Crowley said. "We've heard this before. We think that the arrangement that we put on the table in Geneva is the right one. The Iranian response in essence is, in our view, a red herring." He said Washington would discuss "appropriate next steps, including prospective sanctions," with its allies.

Nor was the British Foreign Office impressed by the new document.

"We continue to support the original deal," the Foreign Office said a statement. "Iran has continually failed to respond fully to that proposal."

"It is clearly for the interested parties to respond but it is hard to see how this latest 'offer' properly addresses these issues," said the statement.

The statement was issued after Amano met in London with British officials including Foreign Secretary David Miliband.

The letter to Amano — dated Feb. 18 — says Iran is "still seeking to purchase the required fuel in cash." However, it was unclear how Iran would do that, because there are no stockpiles of fuel specifically made for its reactor.

Iran is ready to exchange its low-enriched uranium for the fuel rods "simultaneously in one package or several packages in the territory of the Islamic Republic of Iran," the letter says.

World powers insist that Iran ship out most of its enriched uranium first then wait for the fuel rods because that would delay Iran's ability to make a nuclear weapon by leaving it with too little material to make a warhead.

But Iran's continued rejection of the deal appears to have worked in its favor.

When the agreement was drawn up nearly six months ago, it foresaw Iran exporting about 1.2 tons of low-enriched material for further enrichment in Russia to near 20 percent and then reprocessing in France into fuel rods. Back then, that would have been about 70 percent of the Iranian stockpile. □

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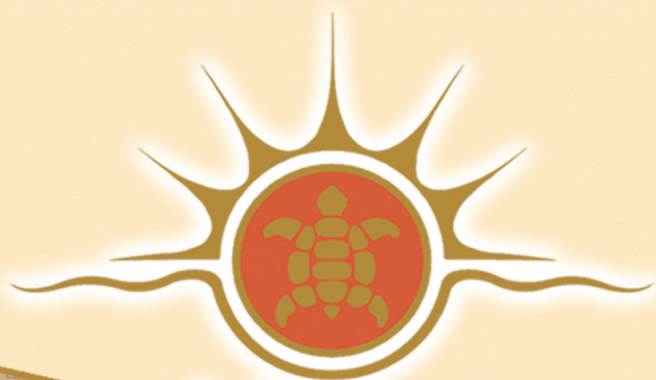
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Latin America creates bloc without U.S. and Canada

OLGA R. RODRIGUEZ
Associated Press Writer

PLAYA DEL CARMEN, Mexico (AP) — Leaders of 32 nations agreed Tuesday to create a new regional bloc including every country in the Americas except Canada and the United States, a show of unity marred when the Venezuelan and Colombian presidents hurled insults at each other.

Honduras, which was not invited to the conference because of last year's coup, could eventually join.

The new organization will defend democracy and human rights and foster cooperation among Latin American and Caribbean countries, said Mexican President Felipe Calderon, the host of the Grupo del Rio summit at a resort in the Yucatan peninsula.

Few details of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States have been worked out, and its formation is expected to take years. The leaders agreed to meet in Venezuela in 2011 and in Chile the next year as part of the process.

The leaders disagree on whether the bloc should

replace the Washington-based Organization of American States, the largest diplomatic bloc in Western Hemisphere, which has been heavily influenced by the United States.

"It's very important that we don't try to replace the OAS. The OAS is a permanent organization that has its own functions," said Chilean President-elect Sebastian Pinera.

Conservative Colombian President Alvaro Uribe and Venezuela's leftist Hugo Chavez, whose relations have long been testy, gave a taste of the sort of disputes the new bloc will have to tackle.

At a dinner Monday night, Uribe started complaining about a trade sanctions Venezuela has imposed on Colombia, according to an official who recounted the exchange to reporters including The Associated Press.

Chavez retaliated by claiming that Venezuela was constantly threatened by paramilitaries in the neighboring country and suggesting that the Colombian government was



Mexico's President Felipe Calderon, center, speaks during the opening ceremony of the Rio Group Summit on the outskirts of Playa del Carmen, 42 miles south of Cancun, Mexico, Monday, Feb. 22, 2010. Front row: second left is Chile's President Michelle Bachelet, and second right is Brazil's President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva. The sign on top reads in Spanish: Latin America and Caribbean Unity Summit.

behind those threats. The Venezuelan leader tried to storm off but stopped when Uribe implied he was a coward.

"Be a man. Stay here because sometimes you insult from a distance but when we are face-to-face to we don't talk," Uribe said, according to the official who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Chavez told Uribe to "go to hell," according

to Venezuelan state television's description of the altercation.

Calderon and Cuban President Raul Castro intervened to calm the two presidents down, and the leaders agreed to create a "group of friends" to mediate between the bickering leaders.

The Venezuelan and Colombian governments tried to play down the

Associated Press
incident Monday.

Chavez said he was confident the two countries "regain trust and transparent relations" through mediation.

Colombian Foreign Minister Jamie Bermudez acknowledged there had been "a heated discussion" but said "the group of friends would help Colombia and Venezuela confront sensitive issues." □



Police Forensic Officers examine the remains of a car bomb that exploded outside Newry courthouse late Monday, Northern Ireland, Tuesday, Feb. 23, 2010. Irish Republican Army dissidents detonated their first car bomb in nearly a decade, damaging a courthouse but injuring nobody in an attack designed to rattle Northern Ireland's peace process.

Associated Press

SHAWN POGATCHNIK
Associated Press Writer

DUBLIN (AP) — Northern Ireland's police commander denounced Irish Republican Army dissidents Tuesday for giving his officers just 17 minutes to evacuate the center of a border town before a car bomb detonated. Monday night's attack on the courthouse in Newry, between Dublin and Belfast, was the first of its kind in nearly a decade. Police said they still were trying to steer people away

from the bomb when it exploded, causing little damage to the heavily fortified courthouse and injuring no one. Nearby residents said their homes shook like an earthquake from the blast but their windows did not shatter, and traffic continued to pass by the flaming remains of the car until police shut down the road. Police said the bomb contained 100 kilograms (225 pounds) of homemade explosive — much smaller than typical IRA car bombs. It appeared

Northern Ireland police decry bombers' 17-minute warning

to catch police off guard because, unlike more than a dozen previous similar threats across Northern Ireland, this one actually detonated. The police's painstaking search for clues Tuesday brought heavy disruption to Newry, a shopping-center hub normally full of bargain-hunters from the neighboring Republic of Ireland. Police warned that parts of central Newry might be shut down through Wednesday as forensic officers in white boiler suits comb every surface within a kilometer (half-mile) for evidence. They hoped to retrieve DNA traces of the bomb maker or driver from the obliterated remains of the bomb and car. In Washington, U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton condemned the IRA dissidents' latest bid to undermine Northern Ireland's Catholic-Protestant government, the central achievement of a U.S.-brokered 1998 peace accord. Both sides in the fragile coalition are planning next

month to elect a new justice minister who would take responsibilities from Britain to oversee the province's police and courts — a move bitterly opposed by IRA die-hards because it could strengthen Catholic support for law and order. Clinton, speaking alongside Britain's visiting secretary of state for Northern Ireland, Shaun Woodward, called the Newry blast "another cowardly act of violence by those who prefer to plant bombs than to argue for votes and to participate in the political process." Police said callers using recognized dissident IRA code words called Newry's hospital and businesses after ramming the car bomb into the courthouse's front security gates. They said the blast came just 17 minutes after police got word. "The time we got to respond was very limited. It was reckless and callous," Chief Constable Matt Baggott told reporters. Baggott said his officers had

arrested 130 suspected IRA dissidents over the past year to suppress their activities. But he said the dissident threat would be defeated only when the extremists' own family, friends and neighbors in hard-line Irish nationalist areas tipped off police. During the worst decades of Northern Ireland's conflict — when the IRA regularly planted vehicle bombs ranging from 500 pounds to 2,000 pounds (250 kilograms to 1,000 kilograms) — police became expert at evacuating people from the imminent blast area. Citizens were usually maimed or killed when police received less than 30 minutes' warning and no precise description of the bomb's location. The outlawed IRA, which renounced violence and disarmed in 2005, typically telephoned warnings when its bombers targeted civilian sites such as shopping centers. Its chief goal in those cases was to inflict financial losses and portray Northern Ireland as ungovernable. □

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Sudan and Darfur rebel group sign key truce

SARAH EL DEEB

Associated Press Writer

CAIRO (AP) — Darfur's most powerful rebel group and the Sudanese government on Tuesday signed a truce after a year of internationally sponsored negotiations, raising hopes the bloody seven-year conflict could draw to a close. Rebel leader Khalil Ibrahim of the Justice and Equality Movement announced the cease-fire would begin that night as the international sponsors of the talks announced a \$1 billion development fund for the war ravaged region.

The once bitter enemies, Ibrahim and Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir, shook hands and embraced after the signing.

The next challenge for the mediators will be getting the dozens of other rebel splinter groups to join the process as the arduous power and wealth-sharing talks begin. Previous cease-fires and partial peace

deals were short-lived.

"This framework agreement is a very important step," Ibrahim said. "We point out, however, that the road to peace still needs much patience and honest concessions from both sides."

Al-Bashir said he hoped to see a full peace agreement by mid-March and praised the presence of other rebel groups at the ceremony, saying recent steps by them to unify their fractious positions was "good news."

"With this agreement, we take a major step toward ending the war," he said.

Tahir al-Faki, a JEM senior official, said the agreement commits the government to release all of its fighters currently on death row — nearly 100 — for their role in a massive attack on the capital in 2008.

According to the framework agreement, JEM would take part in the government's

executive, judicial and legislative branches.

"We agreed that JEM shall transform itself into a political party," he said.

"As time goes on, and if the agreement is implemented well, then JEM forces will be integrated into the Sudanese Armed Forces."

Al-Faki said the goal is to work out the details before March 15. JEM had asked the government to delay the April national elections so that its group can take part.

The government so far has not made a formal response.

Other smaller rebel groups have joined forces to participate in the political negotiations for a more comprehensive peace agreement.

The major rebel group that first launched the rebellion, the Sudan Liberation Movement, however, has shunned the peace talks. Although a shadow of its former strength as it has splintered, the group's exiled



leader remains popular among Darfur's refugee community.

Abdelwahid Elnur said the agreement in Doha is "ceremonial" and will follow the fate of previous partial peace deals. He warned that a "new conspiracy" is being woven against the people of Darfur, while violence and genocide continue.

"No one addresses the need of the people of Darfur on the ground ... (particularly) the issue of security," he said

in a telephone interview from Paris.

The temporary cease fire between JEM, Darfur's most able military rebel group, and the government was initialed last week in Chad, Sudan's eastern neighbor which it has accused in the past of funding the rebels and providing them a safe haven.

Many believe that with Chad on board, the cease-fire agreement has a better chance of surviving. □

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FILE - In this Feb. 1, 2010 file photo provided by WATW, singers and celebrities, including Barbra Streisand, center, perform at the 'We Are The World 25 Years for Haiti' recording session held at Jim Henson Studios on Feb. 1, 2010 in the Hollywood section of Los Angeles.

(AP Photo/WATW, Kevin Mazur, file)

The top 10 singles and albums on iTunes

By The Associated Press

iTunes' top 10 selling singles and albums of the week ending Feb. 22, 2010:

Singles:

1. "We Are the World 25 for Haiti," Artists for Haiti
2. "Imma Be," Black Eyed Peas
3. "Hey, Soul Sister," Train
4. "Need You Now," Lady Antebellum
5. "BedRock," Young Money, Lloyd
6. "Tik Tok," Ke\$ha
7. "In My Head," Jason Derulo
8. "Blah Blah Blah (feat. 3OH!3)," Ke\$ha
9. "Baby (feat. Ludacris)," Justin Bieber
10. "Bad Romance," Lady GaGa

Albums:

1. "Soldier of Love," Sade
2. "The E.N.D. (The Energy Never Dies)," Black Eyed Peas
3. "Need You Now," Lady Antebellum
4. "The Fame Monster (standard)," Lady GaGa
5. "StarStruck (Original Soundtrack)," Various Artists
6. "Animal," Ke\$ha
7. "Rebirth," Lil Wayne
8. "Hope for Haiti Now," Various Artists
9. "Almost Alice," Various Artists
10. "Tonight," TobyMac

Last of Cash's 'American Recordings' released



FILE - This 1995 publicity file photo originally released by TBS, singer Johnny Cash is shown.

(AP Photo/TBS, Mark Hill)

By DAVID BAUDER,
AP Entertainment Writer

LOS ANGELES — Johnny Cash's voice comes in with a rumble, singing that there "ain't no grave that can hold my body down." A shuffling beat that sounds like heavy chains being carried back and forth accompanies him.

It sounds both reassuring and, let's be honest, a little creepy. He's been dead for six years now. Even a voice that iconic can't speak from the Great Beyond, can it?

No, it's what he left behind — the sixth and last of the American Recordings series he made with producer Rick Rubin. The disc, "American VI: Ain't No Grave," will be released on Friday, which would have been Cash's 78th birthday. Like the series' fifth disc, also released posthumously in 2006, it contains mostly recordings made by Cash in the last few months of his life. His way of working through the grief over his wife June's death, also in 2003, was to work as much as his health permitted. "When we first went back and listened to the recordings after he had passed, it really just felt like this voice coming back from another place," Rubin said. "It had all this weight and gravity to it. It was scary."

You can hear the good days and bad days in his voice. Sometimes it's weak, as if Cash was struggling for his breath. Other times it's stronger, more familiar to fans who have listened to him for

decades.

When he had reached finished the fourth disc of the series that gave him a professional rebirth, Cash thought the run was over. He was a little melancholic — until Rubin told him they should start the next one tomorrow.

"His eyes lit up," he said. "He really got excited. He didn't know if he could do it, he didn't know if anybody cared that he could do it. He felt like he'd given what he had to give. The possibility that there was more for him to give really excited him and from that moment on, he was really on." The recording style for this final disc was the same as it was for the other American Recordings. An engineer would capture Cash's vocal, perhaps to a single guitar accompaniment, and Rubin later brought in session pros like Mike Campbell, Benmont Tench and Jonny Polonsky to build an arrangement around it. The unadorned series of recordings were a late-in-life artistic revival for Cash, as he worked on songs expected and unexpected — like the memorable cover of the Nine Inch Nails' song "Hurt."

Along with the title cut, "Ain't No Grave," the songs Cash sings includes ones by Kris Kristofferson, Sheryl Crow, Tom Paxton and an original he wrote in his last three years. The final sessions produced enough material for two discs, and it was left to Rubin to decide how they would be configured. The 2006 disc was largely a rumination on mortality, but he feels the new one is more about how a person's energy can live on after death. The cover is a picture of Cash as a child. "It does bring him back to life," he said. "He can live on by us being able to hear this, even though he can't show up and sing it for us. He left it for us to be able to feel him as if he were here."

Somewhat ironically, since Rubin said he's never heard it, a song written by Cash's daughter Rosanne after her father's death eloquently expresses the same idea. □



US singer Janet Jackson looks on as she waits for the creations of Vivienne Westwood at London Fashion Week. The gothic splendour of London's Royal Courts of Justice was the dramatic backdrop for Vivienne Westwood's new Red Label line as she rounded off a day of shows by some of Britain's top designers.

(AFP/Geoff Caddick)

CBS fights 2004 'wardrobe malfunction' fine

By MARYCLAIRE DALE,
Associated Press Writer

PHILADELPHIA — CBS continues to fight the \$550,000 fine for Janet Jackson's infamous 2004 Super Bowl "wardrobe malfunction," insisting the network is not responsible for the fleeting nudity.

The 3rd Circuit Court of Appeals in Philadelphia had thrown out the FCC fine as arbitrary. But the U.S. Supreme Court ordered the court to reconsider, leading to new arguments Tuesday.

CBS lawyer Robert Corn-Revere says the FCC had always applied the same decency standards to words and images — and excused fleeting uses. Janet Jackson appeared bare-breasted in the halftime show for nine-sixteenths of a second.

But FCC lawyer Jacob Lewis says the duration of the offense is not the only factor. And he argues that CBS was warned the act might include some shocking surprises. □



Toyota: Recalls won't totally fix gas pedal issues



James E. Lentz, president and chief operating officer, Toyota Motor Sales, USA, Inc., testifies on Capitol Hill in Washington, Tuesday, Feb. 23, 2010, before the House Oversight and Investigations subcommittee hearing on Toyota.

By LARRY MARGASAK
and KEN THOMAS,
Associated Press Writers

WASHINGTON — The president of Toyota's U.S. operations acknowledged to skeptical lawmakers on Tuesday that the company's recalls of millions of its cars may "not totally" solve the problem of sudden and dangerous acceleration.

"We are vigilant and we continue to look for potential causes," Toyota's James Lentz told a congressional panel. However, he repeated his company's position that unexpected acceleration in some of the company's most popular cars and trucks was caused by one of two problems — misplaced floor mats and sticking accelerator pedals.

He insisted electronic systems connected to the gas pedal and fuel line did not contribute to the problem, drawing sharp criticism from lawmakers who said such a possibility should be further explored — and from a tearful woman driver who could not stop her runaway Lexus. "Shame on you, Toyota," Rhonda Smith, of Sevierville, Tenn., said at a congressional hearing. Then

she added a second "shame on you" directed at federal highway safety regulators.

Texas Republican Rep. Joe Barton cautioned his colleagues early in the hearing against conducting a "witch hunt" and said "We don't want to just assume automatically that Toyota has done something wrong and has tried to cover it up." But midway through Lentz's testimony, Barton said of Toyota's investigation of the problems: "In my opinion, it's a sham."

Lentz said the company had not completely ruled out an electronics malfunction and was still investigating causes of the sudden acceleration. Still, "We have not found a malfunction" in the electronics of any of the cars at issue, he said. As to Smith's harrowing story, "I'm embarrassed for what happened," Lentz said. "I want her and her husband to feel safe about driving our products," Lentz said.

Three congressional panels are investigating Toyota's problems, which affect a huge number of Americans. Toyota has recalled some 8.5 million vehicles worldwide — more than 6 million in the

United States — since last fall because of unintended acceleration problems in multiple models and braking issues in the Prius hybrid. It is also investigating steering concerns in Corollas. People with Toyotas have complained of their vehicles speeding out of control despite efforts to slow down, sometimes resulting in deadly crashes. The government has received complaints of 34 deaths linked to sudden acceleration of Toyota vehicles since 2000.

Lentz, who choked up while discussing the death of his own brother more than 20 years ago in a car accident, said he understood the pain.

"I know what those families go through," he said.

Lentz has said in the past that he was confident Toyota's fixes on the recalled vehicles would correct the problems.

But when pressed by Energy and Commerce Committee Chairman Henry Waxman, D-Calif., on whether the two recalls Toyota put in place to deal with the issue would completely solve it, Lentz replied: "Not totally."

Still, he said chances of unintended accelerations were "very, very slim" once the recall was complete. Lentz also said Toyota was putting in new brakes that can override the gas pedal on almost all of its new vehicles and a majority of its vehicles already on the road.

Meanwhile, Toyota president Akio Toyoda, who will testify before a separate panel on Wednesday, said he took "full responsibility" for the uncertainty felt by Toyota owners and offered his condolences to a San Diego, Calif., family who were killed in late August, reigniting interest in the problems. □



FILE - In this Jan. 25, 2010 file photo, traders John Panin, left, and Bobby Gray work on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange. Stocks dipped early Tuesday, Feb. 23, as investors remain cautious about the strength of a consumer-led economic recovery.

(AP Photo/Richard Drew, file)

Stocks retreat after disappointing consumer report

By STEPHEN BERNARD,

AP Business Writer

NEW YORK — The stock market pulled back Tuesday after a surprising drop in consumer confidence reminded investors of the fragility of the economic recovery.

The Dow Jones industrials fell 100 points. Interest rates also fell as investors moved money out of stocks and into the safety of Treasuries.

The Conference Board said its consumer confidence index fell to 46 in February from 56.5 last month. That was well below the forecast of economists polled by Thomson Reuters. They expected a reading of 55.

Not only did the index fall sharply, it is far from indicating strength in the economy. A reading above 90 means the economy is on solid footing. Consumers are vital to a strong, sustained economic recovery because their spending accounts for more than two-thirds of all economic activity.

The confidence numbers came as investors were already rethinking the more optimistic assessment they had of the economy last week. Stocks had rallied for four straight days on upbeat earnings news, including some from retailers, and on improving housing and manufacturing numbers.

That rally has ended this week in response to a growing pile of disappointing consumer news, including retail earnings reports. While Home Depot Inc., Sears Holdings Corp., Macy's Inc. and Target Corp. all reported better-than-expected earnings Tuesday, the companies indicated that sales growth is lagging. That's a sign that consumers are still too hesitant about the economy and their own job security to spend freely.

"Consumers are still just very confused," said J. Garrett Stevens, CEO of FaithShares, which manages exchange-traded funds. Economic reports remain mixed, which is typical for this point in a recovery and add to uncertainty among investors, he said. "Until we get more consistently positive trends, it's like to be choppy like this," Stevens said.

According to preliminary calculations, the Dow Jones industrial average fell 100.97, or 1 percent, to 10,292.41 after being up around 19 before the consumer confidence index was released. □

SPORTS

Aruba TODAY

Olympics Roundup

Kramer disqualified after posting best time

JOHN PYE

AP Sports Writer

VANCOUVER, British Columbia (AP) — The biggest blunder of speedskater Sven Kramer's career cost him a second Olympic title and handed South Korea's Lee Seung-hoon the most unexpected gold medal of the Vancouver Games on Tuesday.

The Dutchman was disqualified despite posting the fastest time in the 10,000 meters after failing to switch lanes properly about two-thirds of the way through the race.

At Whistler, Switzerland's Carlo Janka celebrated an Olympic giant slalom gold medal to go with his world championship title with a combined two-run time of 2 minutes, 37.83 seconds. Norway collected silver and bronze with Kjetil Jansrud finishing 0.41 seconds behind Janka in second place and Aksel Lund Svindal



Netherlands's Sven Kramer, left, looks at gold medallist and new Olympic record holder Korea's Lee Seung-Hoon, right, after the men's 10,000 meter speed skating race at the Richmond Olympic Oval at the Vancouver 2010 Olympics in Vancouver, British Columbia, Tuesday, Feb. 23, 2010. Kramer got disqualified for not switching lanes.

completing a full complement of Vancouver medals by taking bronze to go with his gold in the super-G and silver in the downhill.

Russia had earlier secured the first gold medal of Day 12, with Olga Zaitseva finishing off victory in the women's biathlon relay in 1 hour, 9 minutes, 36.3 seconds to beat France and Germany.

Canada won its sixth gold, joining Norway and Switzerland only one behind the competition-leading United States and Germany, when Ashleigh McIvor defeated Norwegian Hedda Berntsen in the final of the Olympic debut of women's skicross, held in heavy snow. Austria successfully defended its title in the Nordic combined team relay, overtaking the United States in the last straight of the cross-country section after placing third in the ski-jumping portion of the event.

Associated Press

Continued on Page 14



Russia's Nikolay Davydenko returns the ball to France's Florent Serra during the second day of the Emirates Dubai ATP Tennis Championships in Dubai, United Arab Emirates Tuesday, Feb. 23, 2010.

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — Nikolay Davydenko admitted he's trying to win the Dubai Championships with a sore left wrist after barely

winning his first-round match against Florent Serra of France 6-7 (5), 6-4, 6-1 on Tuesday. Davydenko, the highest seed in action at No. 4, was a set

Associated Press

Davydenko wins Dubai opener despite sore wrist

and two break points down at 4-4 in the second.

But he saved the pair as he won eight successive points to force a deciding set, which he steamrolled to win after 2 hours, 11 minutes on court.

Davydenko, a righty, served 11 aces and saved all eight break points he faced from Serra, but he said his wrist was still hurting after falling on it during the Rotterdam semifinals two weekends ago. "I thought I broke wrist," Davydenko said. "I had swelling for three days. I could not touch anything with my left wrist. I did not know

if I would play here, which is the reason I requested a Tuesday start. "But I started feeling a little bit better. I did not have any preparation for this tournament. It still pains, but I continued today's match. I hope it's not a big problem and I can play here and the Davis Cup." The Russian won last month's tournament in Qatar and was in the running for a title double in the desert. Fifth-seeded Jo-Wilfried Tsonga advanced when Michael Llodra retired from the all-French match after dropping the first set 7-6 (9). Both players were battling

illness, and Tsonga said he was close to withdrawing before Llodra pulled out.

"It was difficult because I was a bit sick as well," he said. "With the travel from Marseille, it's really tough today. But I won. He stopped before me, so I will continue and I hope I will feel better tomorrow." Also moving into the second round was sixth-seeded Marin Cilic, the winner of ATP titles in Chennai and Zagreb already this year. The Croat, who also reached the semifinals of the Australian Open, defeated Arnaud Clement of France 6-2, 6-4. □

Boone ends 12-year career in majors, joins ESPN

By RONALD BLUM,
AP Sports Writer

NEW YORK — Even before he was a major league player, Aaron Boone wanted to be a big league broadcaster.

“As a little kid, going to bed and sleeping at night, listening to Harry Kalas and Richie Ashburn call Phillie games left a lasting impression on me,” Boone said Tuesday.

Boone announced his retirement as a player following a 12-year major league career and will become a baseball analyst for ESPN.

Following open-heart surgery last March 23, Boone returned to the Houston Astros and went 0 for 13 in September. Teammate Geoff Blum took third base from David Wright after the season’s final game and presented Boone with it in the visiting clubhouse, a sign players knew Boone’s playing career was over.

“Although I’m taking my uniform off, in a lot of ways it doesn’t feel like I’m retiring because I’m certainly not leaving the game,” Boone said.

A third generation big leaguer, he’s the grandson of Ray Boone, the son of Bob Boone and a brother of Bret Boone.

An All-Star in 2003 when he split the season between Cincinnati and the New York Yankees, Aaron Boone had a .263 career average with 126 homers and 555 RBIs. His most famous hit was off Tim Lincecum in the 11th inning of Game 7 of the 2003 AL championship series, capping the Yankees’ comeback from a 5-2 deficit against the Boston Red Sox.

Boone will appear on “Baseball Tonight” beginning in March. He worked for ESPN Radio during the last NL division series.

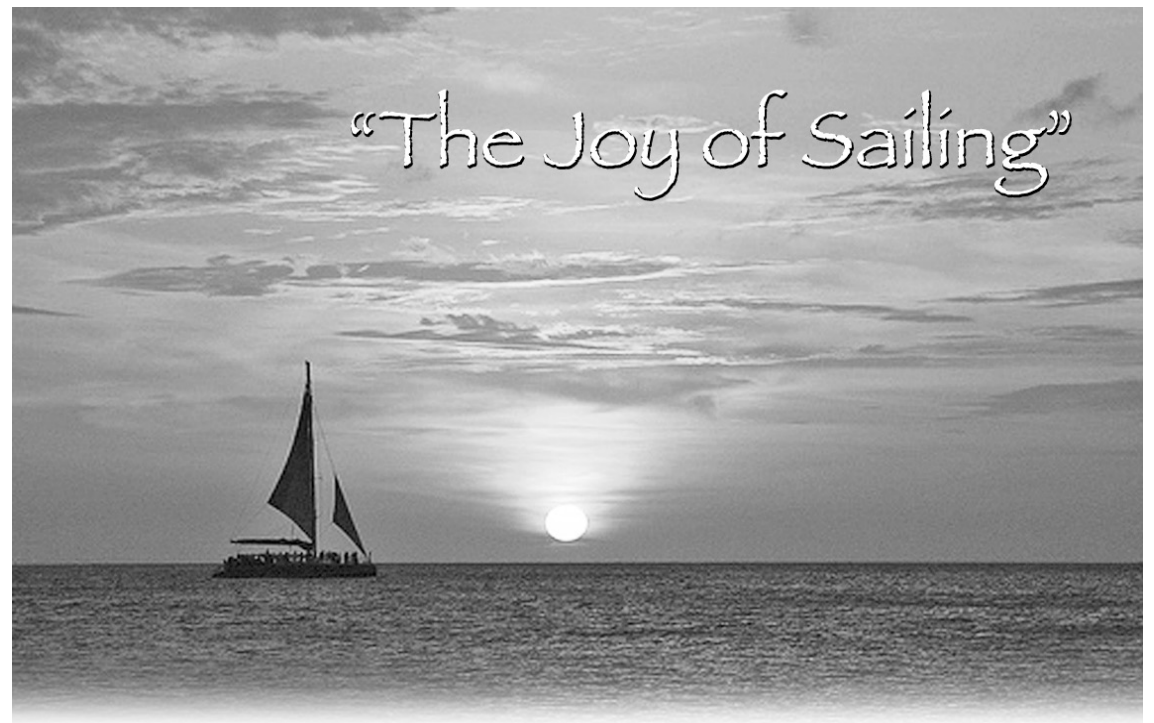
“Sometimes there’s nothing worse than when you see an analyst that’s being a homer or, you know, just unwilling to criticize something,” Boone said. “Hopefully, one of my gifts will be that I’ll be able to, you know, say something that’s I guess considered critical without being a jerk.”

He thinks he’s well-prepared for his new job.

“I’ve always been breaking

down games and analyzing and watching and paying attention, you know, calling games in my hotel room by myself,” he said. “I’ve been asked a lot over the years would I want to manage or coach. I would never say never because who knows where you are down the road? But I never pictured myself going into that role. I always pictured myself doing this.” □

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Bode Miller of the United States reacts after skiing out, during the first run of the Men's giant slalom, at the Vancouver 2010 Olympics in Whistler, British Columbia, Canada, Tuesday, Feb. 23, 2010.

OLYMPIC ROUNDUP Continued from Page 12

Kramer, the world champion and world record holder, was an overwhelming favorite to add the 10,000 title to his victory in the

Associated Press
5,000. But the gold medal was awarded instead to Lee in an Olympic-record time of 12 minutes, 58.55 seconds.
Russia's Ivan Skobrev picked up silver and bronze

to defending champion Bob de Jong, Kramer's teammate on the Netherlands team. Kramer blamed his coach for wrongly pointing him down the inside lane on the 17th of 25 laps, but said: "At the end of the day, it is my responsibility. I am the skater on the ice, I have to do it." On the Richmond Olympic oval, Kramer raised his arms in triumph after crossing the line, moments before Dutch coach Gerard Kemkers skated over to tell him of the disqualification. Kramer reacted with disbelief, kicking the ice.

"It is pretty hard now," Kramer said. "I was on my way to make the right decision and right before the corner I changed my decision because of the advice from the (coach)." Kemkers took the blame, saying "the responsibility is all mine." "It all happened in a split second. It is a disastrous error. This is my absolute worst moment," said Kemkers, adding that when the realization hit him: "I knew my world had just collapsed on me."

Lee said he was as amazed as anyone about Kramer's breach of one of the most basic rules of long-track speedskating, which requires competitors to switch lanes each time they go down the back stretch to even up the distance they cover.

"I expected to be on the podium but not for the gold," Lee said. "I could not have realized that this would have happened. Sven Kramer is a great skater."

In the Alpine competition, Janka lived up to pre-Olympic expectations by taking the lead in the first leg of the giant slalom while American Bode Miller made an unexpectedly early exit from the competition. Miller's bid for a record fourth Alpine medal at a single Winter Games was derailed when he couldn't correct his line coming out of a right-hand gate in the second half of his run. He almost crashed out in the top half.

He and Svindal now each have three medals in Vancouver. No man has ever won four Alpine medals at a single Olympics. □

Olympic protesters smash department store windows

By ANNE M. PETERSON
AP Sports Writer

VANCOUVER, British Columbia — Police in riot gear confronted more than 200 masked protesters who hurled newspaper boxes through display windows of a popular department store selling Olympic souvenirs. Seven people were arrested after officers carrying clubs and shields quashed the downtown protest on the opening day of competition at the Vancouver Olympics.

There were no immediate reports of injuries.

Those arrested could face a variety of charges, including assault, Police Chief Jim Chu said. At least one could be charged with weapons possession for wrapping a bicycle chain around his fist and threatening passers-by. None of the protesters was immediately identified.

Chu said police knew in advance about the protest, but decided to move in once they knew "criminals" were involved.

Authorities said they were wary of masked anarchists who dress in black and use a tactic called "Black Block" to hide their identities. Among them was a loosely organized group from central Canada known to disrupt events that draw media coverage, police said.

"Their tactic is to hide within the ranks of legitimates protesters," Chu said.

He maintained that about half the protesters were "criminals intent ... on committing violent acts, including damage to property, including assaulting passers-by."

The Olympic Resistance Network said on its Web site it was protesting to "disturb 'business as usual'" in Vancouver.

The ORN is an umbrella group for many causes surrounding the games, ranging from environmental to economic issues. The most prominent involve native Indians who want to reclaim property ("No Olympics on Stolen Ancient Land") and those angry over the amount of money spent on Olympics as opposed to public housing ("Homes Not Games"). □

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NBA Roundup

Hawks get rare win at Jazz

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — The Atlanta Hawks won in Utah for the first time in 17 years, beating the undermanned Jazz 105 to 100 in Monday's NBA action.

Joe Johnson led Atlanta with 28 points, including 11 in the fourth quarter and a 3-pointer with 2:28 left that put the Hawks ahead to stay.

Josh Smith added 18 for Atlanta, which moved back within two games of Southeast Division-leading Orlando.

The Jazz lost for just the third time in 20 games and missed the opportunity to go equal top of the Northwest Division.

Playing without Deron Williams and Andrei Kirilenko, Utah stayed close until the final minute, but allowed the Hawks to shoot 54 percent.

Mavericks 91, Pacers 82

In Dallas, Brendan Haywood tied a career high with 20 rebounds and Dallas improved to 4-0 with him as their starting center, beating Indiana.

Haywood, who came from Washington in a trade this month, scored 13 points and added three blocks to

anchor a defense that was struggling. The Mavericks have held all five opponents since the trade to less than 100 points after the previous eight broke that mark.

Dirk Nowitzki's 23 points led Dallas, who opened a 3-1/2 game gap atop the Southwest Division.

T.J. Ford led the Pacers with 14 points.

Clippers 98, Bobcats 94

In Los Angeles, Rasual Butler scored 20 points to lead Los Angeles over Charlotte.

Chris Kaman had 18 points and 13 rebounds for the Clippers, who have won consecutive games after starting 0-5 under interim coach Kim Hughes.

Drew Gooden and Travis Outlaw both made their debuts for the Clippers after joining them from Washington and Houston respectively before last Thursday's deadline.

Gerald Wallace had 32 points and 12 rebounds for the Bobcats.

Wizards 101, Bulls 95

In Washington, Andray Blatche scored 25 points and had 11 rebounds to lead Washington over Chicago.

Blatche, averaging 25 points in the four games since the

trades of Antawn Jamison and Caron Butler, helped Washington to its first three-game home winning streak since 2007-08. He also made all nine of his free throws.

Early in the third quarter, the Wizards scored 14 straight to take a 62-58 lead, holding Chicago scoreless for 6 minutes, 10 seconds. Derrick Rose scored 22 points to lead the Bulls, who lost their first game in five. Bucks 83, Knicks 67

In New York, Milwaukee made it three straight wins, beating punchless New York.

Andrew Bogut had 24 points and 20 rebounds in his third career 20-20 game. The Australian overwhelmed the Knicks' smaller front line, shooting 12 of 15 from the field in his first 20-20 game this season.

John Salmons scored 15 points for the Bucks, who forced the Knicks into their lowest score of the season and completed a three-game sweep of the series.

Tracy McGrady scored 15 points in his second game with the Knicks, but shot only 5 of 14. He wasn't alone in struggling, as the team hit just 33.8 percent



Atlanta Hawks guard Mike Bibby (10) slips by Utah Jazz guard Ronnie Price (17) for a basket during the first half of their NBA basketball game Monday, Feb. 22, 2010, in Salt Lake City.

Associated Press

from the field in its season-high seventh straight loss. In other NBA games it was Washington 101, Clippers 98, Charlotte 83, New York 67; Dallas 91, Indiana 82; Atlanta 105, Utah 100; and L.A. was Washington 101, Clippers 98, Charlotte 95; Milwaukee 94. □



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Volunteers drive below a poster of Tiger Woods as they arrive for work at the Accenture Match Play Championship golf tournament Friday, Feb. 19, 2010, in Marana, Ariz. Woods has apologized for having affairs and says he is unsure when he will return to competitive golf. Woods spoke for more than 13 minutes Friday, Feb. 19, 2010, from the clubhouse at the TPC Sawgrass, home of the PGA Tour.

Associated Press

By DOUG FERGUSON

AP Golf Writer

MARANA, Ariz. (AP)—The latest gossip has Tiger Woods resuming his therapy some 2,000 miles away from where he made his public apology last Friday, which—if true—would be a comical coincidence in one respect.

He made more news in Arizona when he wasn't even there.

If nothing else, last week showed how much control Woods wields in the world of golf.

The opening round of the Match Play Championship typically is one of the most exciting days in golf, and

it was every bit of that. Not because Steve Stricker became only the second No. 1 seed to go home or because 18-year-old Ryo Ishikawa won his last three holes to stay. The buzz centered on Woods' camp announcing that he was going to make his first public appearance in three months.

PGA Tour commissioner Tim Finchem might have set a record by meeting with the media three times in five days. The first session Wednesday was to say very little. The third one Sunday was to take blame for not saying enough. In between was a news conference at the Sawgrass Marriott

Tiger still holds golf hostage

before more media than ever has covered The Players Championship.

Ernie Els was upset, and this was after he won his match. Upon hearing that Woods was to speak in the middle of the first World Golf Championship of the year, Els tried to choose his words carefully until he said to Golfweek magazine, "It's selfish." And that was putting it mildly.

Other players who felt just as strongly managed to bite their tongues, or at least ask that tape recorders be turned off.

Ian Poulter inquired about the scene at the TPC Sawgrass during his final match, and when it was suggested that the only new development was Woods being seen and heard, Poulter stretched out his arms as if to say, "There is nothing else to add."

Not that someone didn't try. After winning the Match Play Championship—the biggest win of his career and his first victory on American soil—the Englishman dressed all in pink nearly turned red when he heard a question from the back of the room.

"Does the Tiger Woods drama take away or diminish this championship to you in any way, just the media attention?"

Poulter's eyes widened and he stared for a second.

"Next question," he replied. Some players get tired of taking Tiger questions when he's winning all the time. They don't like them any more when he's simply reading a statement into a camera.

The Golf Writers Association of America usually doesn't

get this worked up unless the shuttle bus at the U.S. Open is running late. Woods created a flurry of passionate opinions that led the group to reject an offer of three seats in the room where Woods spoke, lobby for more reporters, receive a compromise of six seats, then vote 19-3 (with four abstentions) not to participate.

Could this all have been avoided? Woods said he was on a break from therapy (without saying what kind of therapy) and was to return the next day. Even if he had waited until the tournament was over, and had spoken on Monday, it still would have meant notifying everyone on Saturday—and that would have stolen attention away from Poulter's 7-and-6 semifinal victory over Sergio Garcia.

In the end, the resentment was over Woods still calling the shots. Most agree that he should have lost that right through so many selfish decisions that culminated with a sordid sex scandal, which brought disgrace to his family and damage to a sport that made him who he is, or was. It may be years before the extent of that damage is known.

His management team could have diffused some of the resentment by making more clear what this event was all about. The first word was an e-mail to say Woods was going to speak to a small group of associates and friends, and while it was not an open media event, "it is understood that there are many media who are interested in what he has to say." Then came word that pool reporters—three wire

services, three picked by the GWAA—would not be allowed to ask questions. It appeared to be another outrageous attempt to control the media.

For now, however, Woods does have the right to speak on his terms. He is not playing golf.

That day is coming, even if no one knows when. Woods only said that he would not rule out him playing this year. Once he returns to the PGA Tour, the only control he has over the media is what he chooses to answer. He can say he won't discuss his personal life. That won't stop the questions, and dodging them won't do him any good.

Former Masters chairman Hootie Johnson chose to speak to only five reporters during the nine months that Martha Burk became part of the golf vernacular with her campaign for Augusta National to have a female member.

Johnson was flanked by 60 members in green jackets when he spoke for the first time on the Wednesday before the 2003 Masters. He concluded his opening remarks by saying, "I will have nothing further to add about our membership or related issues." Then came more than 30 questions related to the controversy, and Johnson answered them all (just not to the media's liking).

The Masters has tight restrictions on the media that gets a credential, just not the questions they ask.

The ultimate question—whenever he decides to play—is how Woods chooses to answer them. □

El Gaucho staff members reflect on the subject of excellent service



ORANJESTAD – While in reality, they could have written the handbook on Gracious and Efficient Service, staff members at El Gaucho take their nightly interaction with

guests seriously, and spend time reflecting on the meaning of hospitality and on the optimal way to serve their many clients, at the onset of the restaurant's thirty-fourth

year in business.

Having celebrated El Gaucho's thirty-third birthday last week, ownership decided to ask Ricardo Croes, a well-known hospitality expert to join the discussion with the hard working crew, help polish their skills even further and identify ways and means to

outdo their already excellent level of performance. Pictured here staff member and owner Omira Botta, spending some quality time together in an open and productive session, sharing insights

and tips, raising the bar on hospitality for the restaurant and for the island in general. At the end of the session, Croes awarded attendees a certificate and a heartfelt pat on the back for a job well done. □



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Anabui Residence Club celebrates topping of the roof



MALMOK – Anabui Private Residence Club has just recently celebrated the topping of the roof. The first building was built in record time with the help of a Canadian company, Durabond, specializing in light weight pre-fabricated construction systems. “The Anabui Residence Club complex,” says Managing Director Bas van den Nieuwenhuijzen, “is Aruba’s first project in which, based on the co-efficiency of all components, the Carbon Footprint Reduction amounts to over 40%.” And that is excellent news for the island’s environment because the Anabui Residence Club first building will save up to 179 ton of CO2, savings expressed in energy consumption, Van Den Nieuwenhuijzen reiterates, which will manifest long term, because of the substantially more thermally efficient wall system implemented by Tierra del Sol. The first units including a fully furnished model residence will be inaugurated shortly, he stated.

Located on a beautiful hilltop, just across from the club house, the exciting Anabui Residence Club, designed by famed Stofft & Cooney Architects from Naples, Florida, features a collection of 36 spacious, concierge-serviced residences complete with everything from gourmet cookware to luxury linens, serviced in the manner of fine resorts and maintained by a dedicated year round staff. A limited number of units was released this year at pre-construction prices starting at \$149,900.-, and island visitors are invited to drop in to preview the detailed plans, and visit the Anabui site, before prices go up. The sales gallery for Anabui Private Residences is located in the club house, and is staffed by a handpicked sales team, under the leadership of an expert in the field, Sven Ellerkamp. Sven who worked for Marriott Aruba Resort Surf & Ocean Clubs as a vacation ownership consultant for eight years came on board Anabui Residence Club to help introduce the new product to



the island. The deeded 1/10th interests with the rights and privileges of traditional real estate ownership, he says, while novel in Aruba, is a concept known around the world, already offered by top global hospitality brands and Tierra del Sol, always an industry leader, undertook the challenge of developing the first fractional resort on Aruba. Sven explains that owners



are guaranteed 28 nights in their residence each year, with flexible scheduling, and unlimited additional usage on a space available basis. The turnkey simplicity of the project, he adds, is perfect for today’s vacation buyers who wish to have their property maintained year round, who desire daily housekeeping while in residence and who enjoy concierge services and

other upscale amenities as matched with Tierra del Sol’s island lifestyle to deliver golf, spa, fitness, food and relaxation, in a place that is fun and affordable. Pictured here the amazing view from the building and some of the Topping of the Roof ceremony snapshots, with the construction team having a few cold ones as well!!!



Last Weekend

Cuban Ambiance dominates the Renaissance Marketplace



ORANJESTAD – Ciga, “vojito” y Viva Cuba, was the ambiance last Saturday night at the Renaissance Marketplace. There was a great show of support and everyone enjoyed the fabulous music at the Grand Café Tropical. The musical presentation was Cuban Soul that started around 10 pm and didn’t culminate until after 2 in the morning.

The patrons enjoyed themselves to the fullest with the great music and food from Curba. Locals and tourists alike enjoyed the unique sounds for the fabulous music. Although this was a unique event, the evening wasn’t unusual to say the least because at the Renaissance Marketplace, there are always diverse events and activities to keep

the location as a “place to be and enjoy”. Also last week, Café the Plaza hosted a great presentation with one of Aruba’s most popular live bands Tsunami who will be back in just a few weeks on the 6th of March. □

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Theo forms United People's party



By Mike Granger

PHILIPSBURG -- The United People's (UP) party has arrived. After months of speculation and public whispers, Commissioner Theo Heyliger confirmed Monday night the formation of the island's newest political party, with emphasis on the people and the potential to completely alter the political landscape in St. Maarten. For the first time in his political career, Heyliger will not be a member of the "red machine" Democratic Party (DP) co-founded by his grandfather the late Dr.

Claude Wathey. Instead, he will participate in the election for Country St. Maarten with a new distinction: party leader. His intention is to proclaim lime green as the colour of his party, if the colour is available according to political party colour regulations. Considering his showing in the 2007 Island Council election (1,841 personal votes), his formidable resources and grassroots campaign organisation, Heyliger is expected to mount a serious challenge to the established DP, his coalition partner National Alliance (NA) and People's Progressive Alliance (PPA). He declined to confirm or deny who would be on his list, only willing to say he had been meeting almost daily with various individuals on the island of varying backgrounds and affiliations, to present the people with a balanced list. However, there is growing speculation that PPA leader Gracita Arrindell and Heyliger will be teaming up to contest the next election.

Efforts were made by DP leader Sarah Wescot-Williams and other DP stalwarts to draw Heyliger back into the DP fold. NA leader William Marlin, fresh off a victory in the Parliamentary elections, also reportedly attempted to convince Heyliger to run with the NA. However, in the end all advances proved futile. Heyliger reiterated that his decision to break away from DP had been painful and difficult, but a decision he thought personally he had to make. He said that with the UP, focus and priority would be shifted back to the people – something he believed parties had simply strayed away from in recent years. "Today I can tell you the name of the party, after long consideration and discussions. Although the temptation will be there to abbreviate the party with 'UPP,' the official abbreviation will be 'UP,' placing emphasis on people, not party. We are busy formalising a party board, a constitution and a visionary platform for the party, with the

premise of taking the people of St. Maarten into a bright future. Every step of the way, information will be provided to the people," he said. The fall of the Balkenende cabinet in the Netherlands has not thrown off Heyliger. "That really does not change my train of thought. The UP will participate if the election is held tomorrow, next month, or next year. Following the last Parliamentary election in January, many people came up to me and asked about my political future. I want to make it absolutely clear to those people and to the general population that I fully intend to run in the next election, and I hope the UP will be able to secure your support," he said. The official party launch should come in the next few weeks. Planning and execution, Heyliger said, are important to the UP, and the party will not be thrown together and launched in an ad hoc manner. "When we are ready to launch, believe me, the people will know," he concluded. □

Pechtold wants to continue with constitutional process

THE HAGUE--Former Kingdom Relations Minister, Democrats D66 Leader and Second Dutch Parliament Chamber Member Alexander Pechtold wants to proceed with the legislation trajectory to realise new constitutional relations within the Kingdom. However, he fears that the process will stagnate because of the unwritten rule in The Hague that, when one party wants to declare a dossier "controversial," handling of the subject will cease until a new government has been formed. "I had hoped that all parties in the Second Chamber would be wise enough to allow the continuation of the legislation trajectory to dismantle the Netherlands Antilles," Pechtold said on Monday. "The factions still have to make a decision, but it is clear that PVV (Party for Freedom-Ed.) and most probably also VVD (the Liberal Democratic party-Ed.) will want to defer the Antilles dossier. There are enough reasons to continue with the Antillean legislation, but I don't think that will happen. This means a serious delay of at least half a year, but probably longer. That is a pity because the islands opted for a new status years ago," he said. Pechtold is concerned that, in addition to a postponement of handling the law proposals, some parties will want to break open the November 2006 Final Declaration, in which partners in the Kingdom sealed country status for Curaçao and St. Maarten and the dismantling of the Netherlands Antilles. "I am not in favour of that, but I can't rule out that some parties will try to do so, which would make the Netherlands a very untrustworthy partner," he said. □

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School of Hard Rocks

Jim Knight arrives on Aruba today



Jim Knight at Hard Rock Hotel Bali at the School of Hard Rocks – ‘Rock 101’, an internal management conference immersed in the spirit of Rock ‘n Roll.

PALM BEACH – Today, the 24th of February, Sr. Director of Training & Development Jim Knight for Hard Rock International will arrive for the certification of the Hard Rock in Aruba and Training Store.

Hard Rock Cafe Aruba was nominated as a training store for the capacity of its railway management, its excellent performance in internal assessment that makes the corporation with a score of 98.4% / 100% for the committed staff in meeting the standards and maintaining the quality. For all these reasons Hard Rock Café Aruba has the opportunity for certification as a training store. There are only 14 in the world of which only 2 are franchises and this will be the first in Latin America and the Caribbean.

As head of the School of Hard Rocks, Jim has put his

experience and creativity to work, which has consistently developed cutting-edge training concepts.

The Training & Development department won coveted Telly Awards in 2000 for Hard

Rock’s guest service video and again took top honors in 2007 for their menu rollout video. His team also garnered Training Directors Forum’s 1998 prize for “Reengineering Training.” Additionally, he was recognized by Training Magazine as one of the Top 125 training companies in the world out of all industries & businesses.

Jim is a 12-year member of CHART (The Council of Hotel & Restaurant Trainers) and has since started a local networking group with over 100 active members in Orlando, to share best practices and discuss common issues with other industry professionals. Networking and sharing best practices is a big part of his success.

Although a part of a small

training group, which supports all cafe, hotel and casino properties, In his current role, Jim is involved in many facets of organizational training. This includes creating/managing all staff and management training materials & programs, facilitating its corporate university, overseeing MIT training stores, producing training DVD’s, directing company e-Learning initiatives, facilitating leadership transitions and traveling to unit locations to deliver on-site classes & measure standards.

Jim has a music degree in Vocal Performance & Education and taught in the Florida public school system for 6 years, before catching the “hospitality bug”. He has been in the restaurant industry



Sr. Director of Training & Development Jim Knight for Hard Rock International.

for 24years (19 of those with Hard Rock), starting out a staff-level employee.

Jim facilitates on a variety of interactive topics, including sessions around Hard Rock history, company culture, world-class service, performance management, philanthropy, facilitation training, music & memorabilia and his approach to corporate universities. □

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HUMAN HINTS

Entropy in Our Lives

The second law of thermodynamics says that, throughout the universe, all things, all systems tend toward disorder. When left alone, a system becomes naturally chaotic over time. Science uses the term Entropy to measure the amount of disorder of any given system.

Without human interference, cities will crumble. Wood rots, bearings and moving parts create heat and wear out, our houses become messy and require periodic cleaning. As a spirit expressing through a three dimensional body, we have the power to increase order. When we clean our homes, we increase order. When we build something, we increase order. When we perform maintenance, we are maintaining a certain level of order. If we don't maintain things, they fail when the level of disorder becomes too great.

We can apply this to our lives, without much of a stretch. When we don't put daily, purposeful energy into our lives, the aspects of our lives that we are neglecting become disorderly. Work, relationships, family and

money all suffer from lack of attention. The more purposeful, focused attention, time and energy we put into our lives, the more we get back.

Therein lies the balance we each face every moment of our lives...where to put our attention in any given moment. Our lives will go toward the focus of our daily thoughts and emotions. Not instantly, and usually not by the path we expect, but our lives will always end up where our attitudes dwell, and the focused action of our bodies is the force that takes us there.

This leads us closer to understanding the difference between necessary action and wasting time. In every moment, we each find our own balance between order and disorder in our lives, depending on the intention of each action in every moment. At the end of the 24 hour cycle, each of our lives have either more or less disorder than the previous cycle, depending on how we balance action toward a goal with inaction toward rest and thought. Both disorder and order

are necessary, and how we balance the two is one thing that makes our lives what they are.

Go to www.HumanHints.com to sign up to receive this column in your email each day.

~Quentin Danziger

Quentin has over 20 years experience balancing what we refer to as the Real World, with science and spirit. He has held positions of responsibility and authority, received a Bachelor of Science in Engineering Physics from Colorado School of Mines, and has also studied many avenues of alternative thought. HumanHints is the culmination of his knowledge, experience and practice. These free daily emails detail concrete, real-world techniques to consciously create any future you choose, while in the throes of daily life created by outdated modes of thought.

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On the eve of the restaurant's 10th anniversary

Celebrating perfection at the Amazonia Churrascaria

Palm Beach – The crew at Amazonia Churrascaria is gearing up for the restaurant's 10th anniversary. Almost one decade ago, the authentic Brazilian concept of Rodigio Steakhouse offering continuous dining caught literal fire as a troop of waiters armed with mega skewers started roaming the colorful and friendly new indoor & outdoor dining room of Amazonia Churrascaria, introducing the fresh and novel style of dining to enthusiastic locals and visitors.

It was an instant success and Amazonia Churrascaria became a household name, a favorite place for family gatherings, celebrations or just great food. The restaurant gauchos continuously offer choice cuts of grilled beef, chicken, lamb, pork & sausage, seasoned to perfection and slow roasted over open flame.

The meat selections are accompanied by an extravagant forty-item, frequently changing seasonal salad bar where you can keep sampling until your beg for mercy, all for an inclusive price, excluding dessert and beverages.

On the dessert list the restaurant boasts homemade Crème Brulee, Flan, Brazilian Cheese Cake, Chocolate Mousse Cake,

Apple Pie, and Papaya Cream. The restaurant features an extensive award winning Wine Spectator wine list, a well stocked bar and a terrific selection of Cuban cigars.

Managed by Hubert Solagnier with over thirty years of international Food & Beverage experience, the restaurant is the 'baby' of local entrepreneurs and investors Rene Kan and Milton Berlinski.

With over 40 frequently-changing salads on the salad bar, 14 types of grilled meats

and a team of waiters who are entertainers as well as carvers and an international staff, Hubert is proud of his fantastic crew, and the tastiest food in town, as well as potent Caipirinhas served in one of the most beautifully decorated dining rooms on the island.



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Fine & Affordable Dining at Pam Pam Restaurant

Meet Chef Ludwich Samson and his exquisite menu now unveiled!



Nestled in the quiet neighborhood of Boegoeroei, Perle d'Or apartment complex houses Dutch students and vacationers, as well as a cozy garden eatery, Pam Pam Restaurant & Bar. Aiming to attract a more diverse clientele, Pam Pam has recently adopted a more upscale dining concept. In order to pilot this new concept, rising local chef Ludwich Samson was brought on board, and in just two months on the job, he has

more than proven his worth.

Laid-back, refreshingly young, and ambitious, Ludwich began his career as a chef by enrolling in Aruba's hospitality and culinary arts school—the best decision he has ever made, he wholeheartedly claims. With ten years in the kitchen and three years as a chef, Ludwich has developed an impressive arsenal of cooking skills. He attributes the majority of his growth as a chef to his years

of working under his mentor, Vittorio Muscarllo, owner of Hostaria Da'Vittorio and one of the most highly respected chefs on Aruba.

In his two months with Pam Pam, Ludwich has entirely remodeled the kitchen to make it more efficient. He has also created a whole new menu featuring particularly unique dishes in order to distinguish Pam Pam from the endless number of restaurants along Aruba's hotel strip. While the menu still offers Dutch snacks and typical Dutch platters like sate to appease the many Dutch interns residing at Perle d'Or, the rest of the menu offers upscale fusion cuisine. Lemon grass and chillies give several seafood dishes a Thai flair; homemade ravioli and beef carpaccio salute Italy; crustacean ceviche adds a Peruvian element; and Indonesian spices add zest to a handful of casual main dishes.

Ludwich also craftily adds little unexpected twists to some classic dishes, elevating the uniqueness of his menu. One of his personal favorites is his porcini-crusted filet mignon served with a thyme red-wine reduction. He also delights in the fact that most diners have a hard time figuring out the sweet and spicy deliciousness of his signature crustacean platter. Other interesting interpretations include lump-crab lollipops, chicken cordon blue unorthodoxly stuffed with ricotta and bacon, and for dessert, tiramisu that promises an untraditional layer of decadent Bailey's chocolate mousse.

Needless to say, Ludwich is creative in the kitchen and works extremely hard, currently putting in 12 to 16 hours a day, seven days a week; but he insists that this is not what makes a good chef good. “I simply love what



I do for a living,” confides Ludwich, and this is what guarantees success in the kitchen and contented diners. Of course, being a chef can be downright stressful, but Ludwich thrives on the rush of adrenaline on busy nights. And when he peers out of the kitchen and sees a restaurant full of people enjoying their meals, he experiences immense satisfaction. For reservations call: 5877710 or 7483848, or visit us at www.pampamaruba.com. □



ARUBA- On February 7 & 8, 2010 a double celebration took place on the pristine beach's of Aruba at sunset. Dr. Bruce & Susan Rosen of Huntington, Long Island, New York renewed 40 years

of marriage while their daughter Brooke and Dr. Joseph Gottesman married the following day. Dr. Rosen and his lovely wife met on a blind date through a cousin while Dr. Rosen was finishing



A Double Celebration in Paradise

Rosen & Gottesman celebrate under Aruba's Sunset



their devoted love to the island and returning every year. The following day was Brooke Rosen and Dr. Joseph Gottesman's wedding day. The lovebirds met at work at an orientation. Dr. Gottesman, a clinical psychiatrist and Brooke, a psychiatrist social worker, both working for the state of New York fell in love and dated for three years. On New Years Eve 2008 while on vacation in Las Vegas, Dr. Gottesman proposed to

Brooke while on a gondola on Lake Las Vegas. Brooke knew her heart was set for Aruba for her wedding. She has been returning with her parents for 25 years and introduced the island to Dr. Gottesman who loved everything about the oasis in the Caribbean. The wedding took place at Renaissance Islands surrounded by tropical splendor and a gorgeous sunset. Dr. Gottesman and Brooke glared in each others eyes under



the chuppah as they vowed their love to Rabbi Mario Gurevich and loved ones. The traditional wedding ceremony included the signing of the ketuvah, a blessing over wine and finished the ceremony by the symbolic breaking of the glass as everyone rejoiced with "mazel tov!" Following the photo shoot with Bella Aruba Photography the newlyweds were announced and the festivities began with the Hora dance, cake cutting, and speeches. After dinner the newlyweds surprised the guests with a Caribbean Salsa Show. 'The Pachanga Dancers' danced their hearts away to meringue and salsa and ended the night with

teaching everyone to salsa. Both these events were absolutely breathtaking. A big round of applause goes to Marriott coordinators, Desiree & Verna and the delightful staff as well as wedding planner Juney Jones of Renaissance Resort and the wonderful staff for making these two events dazzling with guests raving and the couples elated about two dreams that came true under Aruba's sky. Congratulations to both newlyweds and may you be blessed with Aruba's happiness and always return to your 'home away from home' at Costa Linda Beach Resort. □

Photos By Angela Munzenhofer

medical school as a graduate in Chicago for psychology. It was love at first sight and within a few weeks he asked for her hand in marriage. They were wed on June 29, 1969. Dr. Rosen and Susan are no strangers to Aruba, they first came to the island on a cruise ship and fell in love with the island, they've returned ever

since for the past 32 years. They love Aruba and knew that it would be the best celebration ever with all their loved ones. The renewal took place at Marriott Aruba Resort at sunset. The renewal was blessed by Rabbi Mario Gurevich and witnessed by 75 guests who attended from all over the U.S.A. A cocktail and dinner reception

took place on the lawn following the renewal. Dr. Rosen and Susan made sure that Super bowl Sunday would not be missed and had a large screen displayed for everyone to enjoy while the tropical music of steel drums were playing in the background. AHATA made a special appearance that evening to honor Dr. Rosen and Susan for



Celebrate tonight with Live Music & Entertainment at Casa Tua Barcelona



ORANJESTAD - Casa Tua Barcelona's Flamenco Show is the spot to be tonight with Angela Croes TONIGHT and then again on Friday. On Thursday enjoy the amazing sounds Kavey Yarzagaray.

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The highlight at Casa Tua Barcelona is also the new lunch specials every weekday from Monday till Friday! A \$9.95 lunch special; Beef tenderloin



with a red wine sauce or choose the Grouper Fillet for \$11.95. Both dishes include a soft drink. Fresh Fish lovers can treat the palate to the Whole Red Snapper, served with Rice and a salad.

All days of the week we serve Cold and Hot tapas as appetizers or the delicious Iberian Ham Pata Negra which we import directly from Andalucia. As your main course you could choose our Paella, traditionally prepared on the spot by our chef! Combine this Spanish dish with our home-made sangria to complete your dinner.

Of course we saved the best for last as no one does an ending better than Casa Tua with their dreamy Tiramisu. If you're into something different we suggest tasting the Espresso Martini Cocktail as dessert, you won't be disappointed.

The best part about such a good ending is that it guarantees you'll be back for more...



Casa Tua Barcelona Downtown open from 11.30am to 10.30pm, Sunday from 5pm to 11pm tel. 588 5695. Casa Tua Palm Beach open from 5pm to 11pm, tel 586 8470

High Court quashes Loor's money-laundering conviction

~ Convictions for forgery, fraud, tax evasion upheld ~

PHILIPSBURG -- The High Court in The Hague has quashed former police commissioner Marcel Loor's conviction for money-laundering and has referred this case back to the Joint Court of the Netherlands Antilles and Aruba for retrial.

That is the outcome of Loor's appeal in the supreme court of the Dutch Kingdom against his April 3, 2008, conviction on forgery, fraud, tax-evasion and money-laundering charges.

The Joint Court had sentenced him to 24 months, six of which were suspended, with three years' probation and payment of a Naf. 15,000 fine. This is the second time Loor has managed to nibble away part of his sentence. The Court of First Instance had sentenced him in November 2007 to four years, a Naf. 600,000 fine, repayment of

Naf. 191,000 to the Coast Guard and payment of Naf. 379,000 to the Tax Office.

Loor's legal representative in St. Maarten Attorney-at-Law Richard Gibson Jr.'s only comment was that he was "not unsatisfied" with the outcome of the so-called "cassation" case in which the High Court ruled on February 16. "I would like to refrain from any further comment in the media until I have discussed the outcome of the appeal with my client Mr. Loor," he stated.

High-profile Dutch lawyer Gerard Spong, who represented Loor in the High Court, could not be reached immediately for comment.

The three judges of the High Court followed the conclusion of the Solicitor General that it could not be proven that Loor had laundered Naf. 447,275 in criminal money. He only considered it proven

that Loor had illegally obtained approximately US \$70,000 in rent allowance from the Coast Guard of the Netherlands Antilles and Aruba.

The High Court also followed the Solicitor General's conclusion that it could not be proven that Loor and his partner Charlene Craig had been aware that all the monies deposited with an offshore company had been obtained through criminal activities.

The High Court upheld Loor's conviction for forging immigration re-entry forms between January 2002 and June 2007, allowing illegal immigrants entry to the island.

Loor had stated he had done such "for humanitarian reasons," but the High Court found that he should have used legal means to accomplish his goals.



It also rejected the appeal of Loor's conviction for defrauding the Coast Guard of rent allowances via his partner Charlene Craig, who worked with the Coast Guard for six years.

The High Court's ruling may have implications for the dispossession claim filed by the Prosecutor's Office to seize Loor's and Craig's assets. The Court of First Instance postponed a ruling on this matter in April 2009

until the outcome of Loor's and Craig's appeals in the High Court.

Craig's appeal in the High Court is still pending. She was sentenced by the Joint Court to 12 months suspended and 200 hours of community service for forgery and money-laundering on March 19, 2009.

The Prosecutor's Office is seeking the seizure of Naf. 1.3 million from the couple.

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illusions, is a sensory overload of the imagination, along with his lovely dancers...a treat for the entire family.

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website: www.MagicLive.com
Blog: www.MagicOnTheBeach.com

HEALTH

Aruba TODAY

By: Dr. Carlos Viana

Religious dietary recommendations, sometimes prohibitions, like folk sayings and remedies have an uncanny insight into the human condition. As a clinical nutritionist, I enjoy trying to unravel the basis for these laws. Likewise, I am interested in traditional methods of cooking foods. Why do spinach and potatoes or cloves and ham seem to go so naturally together? Spinach, a great natural source of iron, contains oxalic acid which can raise uric acid and aggravate a gout attack. However, cooked and eaten with potatoes, the alkalizing quality of potatoes reduces inflammation and prevents a uric acid reaction. Meanwhile, everyone knows that pork has to be cooked well because these animals may more easily become infected with bacteria and parasites. Cloves, used traditional pork recipes, have natural oils that kill bacteria and parasites. Interestingly, reflecting the dietary prohibitions of the Old Testament, medically, we have found pork to be detrimental to all metabolic blood types.

Spring reminds me that every major world religion and many indigenous belief systems incorporate fasting at this time. "Fasting" means abstaining from food or some types of food. The idea of the fasting in spring has been fixed firmly in all religious disciplines as a mechanism to purify oneself and become more receptive to their deity's message. The Christian Bible has thirty three passages about

Fasting, Religious Wisdom

fasting during what they call the Lenten season. Pope John Paul II stated that Penitential fasting is therapy for the soul. In fact, for Catholics all days of Lent are supposed to be fasting days. Muslims throughout the world will be fasting during the sacred month of Ramadan. The Jewish fast of the firstborn takes place in the spring, during Passover.

As a natural physician I am aware that beyond religious faith, fasting is an ancient healing strategy. Many traditional cultures, including Oriental, East Indian, and Native American, have long regarded short periods of abstaining from food as curative and revitalizing. Hippocrates prescribed fasting. Fasting was practiced by Plato, Socrates and Mahatma Gandhi. In modern Europe, clinics that support therapeutic fasting are quite common. In Sweden it's practically a national sport.

Proponents of fasting offer thousands of testimonials from recovered asthmatics, arthritics, insomniacs, ex-sufferers of migraines, skin, digestive disorders, and other ailments. They maintain that with the exception of serious conditions like tuberculosis, ulcers, diabetes, hypoglycemia, blood, liver, kidney and heart diseases- systematic voluntary abstinence from eating is almost always a healthy first response to illness. One of my medical heroes whose influence prompted me to become a colon hydrotherapist,

Dr. Bernard Jensen, has supervised over 50,000 fasts at his center in Escondido, CA.

There are two kinds of fasting. The "water fast" induces rapid internal purification, but shocks the system. Dr. Rudolph Ballentine, MD., author of "Diet & Nutrition - A Holistic Approach," says that the average American lacks the proper reserve nutrients necessary for healthy water fast. Dr. Ballentine recommends a supervised, gradual "juice fast" using natural vegetable and fruit juices to provide essential vitamins to sustain metabolism, and minerals which neutralize and removed toxins that are released.

Although abstaining from food is often not as difficult as you may imagine, it is useful to plan ahead. Having medical supervision is the safest way to start your fast. Fasting is not recommended at times of high stress. During the first two days, when you may feel weak and out of sorts, it's nice to be able to be with supportive loved ones, and to rest when you feel like it. Acupuncture works very well to support you through this "rough" period.

One should begin to reduce portion amounts and eat lighter foods several days before all solid food is eliminated. While fasting, be sure to drink enough water to internally wash the system. Enough is: 1 qt/ 90 lbs of body weight (1 lt./each 30kg). Colonic irrigation not only augments the cleansing process,

it also helps to hydrate the body.

At Viana Healing Center we routinely supervise patients through a fast where, besides water, only brown rice is eaten for two weeks. Eating no proteins or fats, your body will begin to quickly break down its own excess deposits. This not only helps with weight loss, but we've seen it drastically improve skin, allergies, colon and other problems. The duration of a fast depends on one's medical condition, body weight, lifestyle and other individual factors. In many of our supervised patients, we combine the brown rice fast with periods of taking light, natural foods, almost exclusively vegetables.

If you are one of the people on the list above, not healthy enough to completely fast, but would like to eliminate or reduce certain food for religious or health reasons, be sure to be checked by a professional. Consult with a clinical nutritionist to help you make the right food choices in the safest way. Sometimes, eliminating red meat, dairy and/or gluten containing products like wheat, can drastically improve your health. Adding dietary supplements might be recommended. Always read labels to make sure your vitamins are free from artificial or unwanted ingredients like sugar and starch fillers.

Get the Point! As a student of ecclesiastical discipline I see that the religious obligation



of fasting is rarely observed in its integrity nowadays. What a pity, fasting brings into harmony our mind, soul and body. Fasting and abstaining from excessive food results in the lightening of the capabilities of the mind and the soul. Come in so we can help you plan and safely supervise your spring (cleaning) fast.

CARLOS VIANA, Ph. D. is an Oriental Medical Doctor (O.M.D.) having studied in China; a US Board Cert. Clinical Nutritionist (C.C.N.), an Addiction Professional (C.Ad.), Chairperson of the Latin American Committee of the International Academy of Oral Medicine and Toxicology (IAOMT), a Rejuvenating Cell Therapist specializing in Age Management, has a weekly radio program, writes and lectures extensively. For information: VIANA HEALING CENTER, Kibaima 7, St Cruz TEL: 585-1270 Web Site: www.vianaheal.com

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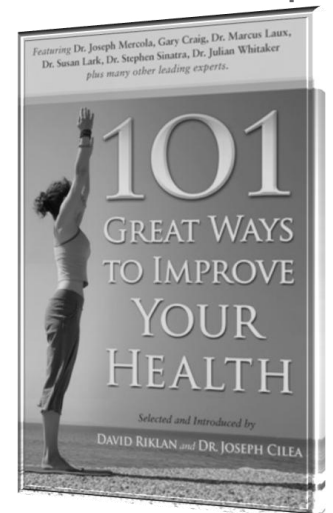
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1BR	WK 51/17	PLATINUM	O.F.	\$ 25.000
2BR	WK 51/17	PLATINUM	O.F.	\$ 50.000

OCCIDENTAL GRAND/OPTIONAL ALL INCLUSIVE				
STU	WK 1/17	OCEAN VIEW		\$ 8.000
3BR	WK 2/17	OCEAN FRONT		\$ 50.000
JR SUITE	WK 1/17	OCEAN VIEW		\$ 10.000
1BR DLX	WK 2/17	OCEAN VIEW		\$ 13.000
2x1 SUP	WK 2/17	OCEAN FRONT		\$ 30.000
1BR	WK 2/17	OCEAN FRONT		\$ 18.000
2BR	WK 2/17	OCEAN FRONT		\$ 30.000
1BR RCL	WK 2/17	OCEAN FRONT		\$ 20.000

DIVI LINKS				
1BR	WK 7/8	ROOM 4205	P.O.	\$ 30.000
1BR	WK 9/10	ROOM 4209	P.V.	\$ 14.000 PW
1BR	WK 9/10	ROOM 4210	P.V.	\$ 14.000 PW

PARADISE BEACH VILLAS				
1BR	WK 3/4/5/6	ROOM 221	P.O.	\$ 13.000 PW
2BR	WK 6/7	ROOM 217	T.H.	\$ 20.000 PW
STU	WK 7/8	ROOM 317	G.V.	\$ 7.000 PW

LA CABANA BEACH RESORT				
2BR	WK 7/8	ROOM 146E	O.F.	\$ 17.000 PW
2BR	WK 8	ROOM 301 E	O.F.	\$ 20.000
1BR DLX	WK 9	ROOM 401 D	O.F.	\$ 20.000

DIVI VILLAGE				
STU	WK 10	ROOM 3101	P.V.	\$ 11.000
STU	WK 12	ROOM 125	P.O.	\$ 6.000
STU	WK 12	ROOM 119	P.O.	\$ 6.000
STU	WK 11	ROOM 8202	P.O.	\$ 11.000

DIVI PHOENIX				
STU	WK 7	ROOM 105	P.O.	\$ 11.500
1BR	WK 8	ROOM 606	O.V.	\$ 11.000
2BR	WK 9/10	ROOM 211	P.O.	\$ 20.000 PW

COSTA LINDA BEACH RESORT				
2BR	WK 8	ROOM 2006	P.O.	\$ 18.000

CASA DEL MAR				
2BR	WK 9	ROOM 1208	P.O.	\$ 18.000

DUTCH VILLAGE				
STU	WK 8/9	ROOM 133	P.V.	\$ 10.000 PW
2BR	WK 11	ROOM 46/49	P.V.	\$ 17.000
STU	WK 9	ROOM 123	P.O.	\$ 7.000
1BR	WK 9	ROOM 114	P.V.	\$ 8.000
1BR	WK 10	ROOM 28	P.V.	\$ 8.000

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E-mail: johnnypaesch@yahoo.com

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SAN NICOLAAS
Dr. Britt-Croes

Botica na warda

Oranjestad:
Botica Kibrahacha
San Nicolaas:



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Oranjestad 582-4000
Noord 587-0009
Sta. Cruz 585-4710
Savaneta 584-7000
San Nicolas 584-5000

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Polis 100
Brandweer 115
Brandweer II 582-1108
Tipline di Polis 11141
Hospital 587-4300

Oranjestad

Ambulance 582-1234
Warda Polis 582-4000
BGD Oranjestad 582-8877

San Nicolas

Ambulance 584-5050
Warda Polis 584-5000
BGD San Nicolas 584-1606
Valero Security 584-1720

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Informacion 118
Kadaster 582-1311
Serlimar 584-6456
Setar 582-5151
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Bogotá busca enfriar riña con Caracas

BOGOTÁ (AP) - El canciller colombiano Jaime Bermúdez intentó el martes bajar el tono a la batalla verbal de la víspera entre los presidentes de Venezuela y Colombia y aseguró que lo importante fue que al final se creó un grupo que trabaje que ayude a ambas naciones a superar sus “temas sensibles”.

Bermúdez dijo, además, que Bogotá mantiene su oferta de suministrar energía a Venezuela, que aún no anuncia oficialmente si acepta esa venta colombiana de electricidad y que ayude a paliar sus graves problemas de racionamiento.

Los presidentes de Colombia, Alvaro Uribe, y de Venezuela Hugo Chávez, chocaron verbalmente el lunes en una de las sesiones de la reunión cumbre que se realiza en México.

En medio del debate, el mandatario anfitrión Felipe Calderón y el presidente cubano Raúl Castro, llamaron a mantener la calma y al final los dirigentes colombiano y venezolano aceptaron que un grupo de trabajo o de países amigos colabore en superar



El presidente de Brasil, Luis Inacio Lula Da Silva (izquierda, de espaldas) habla con sus homónimos de Venezuela y Ecuador, Hugo Chávez (al centro) y Rafael Correa (derecha), mientras el mandatario colombiano, Alvaro Uribe (derecha, al frente) conversa con el primer ministro de Jamaica, Bruce Golding, antes de la sesión oficial de fotos de los líderes latinoamericanos reunidos en cumbre de Cancún, feb 22 2010. REUTERS

sus constantes impasses. “El presidente (Uribe) me contó que sí había hablado con mucha vehemencia... una discusión muy álgida”, con Chávez, dijo el canciller Bermúdez desde México a la radio colombiana Caracol.

“Después de una álgida discusión entre los presidentes se acordó una metodología de trabajo, que un grupo de países ayudarán a Colombia y a Venezuela a afrontar estos temas sensibles. Yo creo que es una conclusión muy

importante”, destacó.

Tal grupo de trabajo se venía discutiendo desde hace varios meses, incluso por parte de Colombia, “pero en efecto, quizá como consecuencia directa de esta situación de ayer (lunes) se concretó este mecanismo y el presidente Uribe de inmediato lo aceptó”, dijo Bermúdez. El presidente venezolano ya también manifestó su apoyo a ese grupo.

El canciller indicó que de

momento no hay una fecha o detalles sobre dónde se reuniría ese grupo de amigos de Colombia y Venezuela, pero que su alcance fue definido de forma general el lunes con dos compromisos: Crear el grupo efectivamente, sin que se quede sólo en declaraciones, y que ni Caracas ni Bogotá harán en adelante declaraciones que el otro país puede considerar ofensivas.

Bermúdez destacó que a pesar de lo ocurrido el lunes, “no ha habido ninguna decisión contraria” de Bogotá para cancelar su oferta de vender electricidad a Venezuela. “Los dos gobiernos y los ministros de Minas...están evaluando el tema técnico, de la viabilidad de ese ofrecimiento y de que Venezuela decida si lo acepta o no en estas condiciones... la idea es continuar en que los ministros y los técnicos definan esa posibilidad. Aquí no ha habido ninguna decisión contraria en ese sentido”, aseguró el canciller.

Las relaciones de Caracas y Bogotá han estado varias veces al punto de la ruptura desde al menos marzo del 2008 y por temas que van desde la intervención de Chávez para facilitar la liberación de secuestrados en manos de las guerrillas colombianas, hasta señalamientos de Colombia de que armamento militar venezolano terminó en manos de insurgentes, entre otros. □

Venezuela: líder empresarial informa de juicio en su contra

CARACAS (AP) — El presidente de la mayor cámara de empresarios del país, Noel Álvarez, anunció el lunes que las autoridades judiciales le abrieron un proceso por los delitos de “rebelión, traición a la patria e instigación a delinquir”.

Álvarez dijo a la prensa que un tribunal local le abrió un proceso penal por dichos delitos, y que de ser declarado culpable podría ser condenado a entre 20 y 30 años de cárcel. La Fiscalía General no hizo referencia al anuncio que hizo el dirigente empresarial.

Álvarez, presidente de la Federación de Cámaras y Asociaciones de Comercio y Producción de Venezuela (Fedecámaras), señaló que acudió al tribunal que sigue su caso para conocer su expediente y designar a su defensor privado.

“En Venezuelame quedo porque soy venezolano, y tenemos que contribuir todos a desarrollar nuestro país”, indicó Álvarez, al asegurar que no tiene previsto huir de la nación.

Las autoridades judiciales iniciaron la investigación contra Álvarez por solicitud del ministro de Obras Públicas y encargado del sector de telecomunicaciones, Diosdado

Cabello, quien pidió a la Fiscalía General abrir un proceso penal por unas declaraciones que realizó el dirigente empresarial en el programa La Entrevista del canal Radio Caracas Televisión Internacional (RCTVI).

Cabello sostuvo que Álvarez habría señalado el pasado 14 de enero en RCTVI que “la solución en Venezuela debe ser militar”, en una presunta alusión a un golpe de Estado en Venezuela.

Sin embargo, si se revisa la videgrabación de la entrevista, puede inferirse que al utilizar el término “militar” Álvarez no se refería a que el ejército dé un golpe de Estado para derrocar a Chávez, sino más bien a una solución militarizada en el sentido de unificar a los gremios en una sola dirección con el fin de fortalecerlos y formar un bloque que pueda hacerle frente a algunas iniciativas económicas gubernamentales.

“Cada quien (los gremios) anda por su lado, uno anda en un lado... entonces, tenemos nosotros en estos momentos, como decía alguien: la solución a los problemas en Venezuela es una solución militar”, afirmó Álvarez en la entrevista. □

Sismos alarman a guatemaltecos

GUATEMALA (AP) — Dos sismos de magnitud mayor a los 5,0 sacudieron el territorio guatemalteco sin que se hayan reportado daños inmediatamente.

El Servicio Geológico de Estados Unidos informó que el primer temblor se registró a las 04.53 con una magnitud de 5,6 grados, a unos 170 kilómetros al noroeste de la capital en la región fronteriza con México.

El vocero de la Coordinadora Nacional para la Reducción de Desastres (CONRED), David de León, informó que del primer sismo no hay reporte de daños, mientras que un sondeo preliminar indica que el segundo temblor tampoco causó daños.

Los reportes de autoridades y ciudadanos consultados en diversos puntos del país por emisoras locales indicaron que no hubo daños ni víctimas. □

Acuerdan crear Comunidad de Estados Latinoamericanos y Caribeños

PLAYA DEL CARMEN, México (AP) - Mandatarios de la región aprobaron el martes constituir la Comunidad de Estados Latinoamericanos y Caribeños que incorpore a todos los países del hemisferio, salvo Estados Unidos y Canadá. Lo 32 países asistentes a la denominada Cumbre de la Unidad acordaron por aclamación lanzar el nuevo bloque, aunque su funcionamiento formal ocurrirá cuando se hayan acordado sus estatutos. El objetivo será proyectar a nivel global a la región con fundamento en el respeto al derecho internacional, igualdad de estados, respeto a los derechos humanos y la cooperación, señaló el presidente mexicano Felipe Calderón, anfitrión del encuentro. Para el mandatario cubano Raúl Castro, la creación del bloque tiene "trascendencia histórica. "Están dadas las condiciones

para avanzar hacia la constitución de una organización regional puramente latinoamericana y caribeña y que represente a las 33 naciones independientes de la América Latina y el Caribe", agregó. El lanzamiento se registró en una cumbre denominada de la unidad y en la cual las diferencias entre Colombia y Venezuela derivó en una confrontación verbal entre los presidentes Alvaro Uribe de Colombia y Hugo Chávez de Venezuela. Al encuentro sólo faltó Honduras, país que no fue invitado por estar suspendido de la OEA tras al golpe de estado de junio de 2009. Aunque los mandatarios estuvieron de acuerdo en la nueva entidad, las opiniones aún son divergentes sobre si debe sustituir o no a la OEA, un organismo que algunos han señalado como ineficaz para resolver disputas regionales y en el que sí participan Estados Unidos y Canadá. □



Presidentes latinoamericanos y del Caribe deciden crear un bloque regional sin Estados Unidos y Canadá. (AP Photo/Israel Leal).

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